previous years, yearwise;

(c) what steps are being taken to contain the abnormal price rise of edible oils and vanaspati in the market; and

(d) whether Government propose to take measures to contain the rise of price of these items during the coming marriage season July-October when demand will reach at its peak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b):The wholesale price index for edible oils and vanaspati during last three years, year-wise alongwith corresponding increase of each compared to previous years are at Annexure [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 17]

(c) and (d); The steps taken by the Government include monitoring of prices in respect of edible oils and vanaspati, strict enforcement of provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955, increased supplies of imported oils through PDS, intensification of de-boarding operations and lowering of stock limits of edible oils and vanaspati.

Sending of young children to Gulf countries for camel race

542. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the racket of sending young children to Gulf countries for camel race;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which came to Government's knowledge so far;

(c) the number of persons arrested so far for indulging in such a racket,

(d) whether our embassies in the Gulf countries are playing any positive role in preventing such racket; if so, the details of their contribution so far in this regard; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to prevent such inhuman practices?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Eight cases have come to Government's knowledge so far.

(c) The information is being collected.

(d) Indian Embassises in the Gulf countries promptly intervene on receipt of information regarding deployment of children for camel race. Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi helped in repatriation of six children-Two in August, 1989, one in September, 1989 and three in December, 1989.

(e) The agencies concerned with emigration have been alerted to exercise due circumspection in the scrutiny of cases where minor children are sought to be accompanied on a passport before granting the requisite clearance.

Complaints against recruitment agents for non-payment

543. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to steate:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government against recruitment agents regarding non-payment of wages, non-refund of security deposit, etc. during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of complaints probed by the Protector General of Immigrants during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the number of cases where many has been recovered by Government from recruitment agents, year-wise;

(d) the number of recruitment agents whose security deposits have been confiscated by Government for non-compliance with rules during the last